



GENDER SENSITISATION: SIGNIFICANCE OF EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The discrimination is an immoral, unethical & unfairly behavioural practice of an individual & groups of individual to consider differently from one to others individuals or groups of individual. Therefore, there are many distinguish areas of discrimination like colour, race, caste, ethnicity, nationality, class, religion, sex, language etc. but one of the most challengeable discrimination that is occurred within the same group of individuals based on the gender. There are many issues and challenges created by societies for the female gender in the various societies and countries of the world, but India is one of country where the female are discriminated in many ways. All the challenges faced by women and related gender disparities and inequality are the results of degradation of values and ethics amongst the individuals of the society. Therefore, there is a great need to sensitize the society on gender issues because it overall helps to determine and ensure the equal roles, responsibilities, opportunities, privileges and expectations of men and women within the society. Gender sensitisation is a movement through which the people with stereotype & traditional thinking, should be able to assure equal participation of women and men in decision-making; to facilitate equally; to equally access & control on the resources; to acquire alike benefits of development; to get equal opportunities in employment; economic, political, cultural & social sector and also can get equivalent regard in all other aspects of their life and livelihood so that both gender can enjoy their human rights without any constraint. With the help of education, gender sensitization in educational institutes can create awareness among the children, parents and other members of the community about their roles in future as the men and women in the society. Moreover, this is the power of education that can make a great social change in the society at large. Presently, gender and women studies has become a main subject of study at higher level of education. It is also included in the syllabus of teacher education, so that pupil teacher can learn how to deal with issues related with gender sensitisation in a smooth manner. Thus, all the possible concerns should be made by the educational institutions to promote the gender equality in education access, learning process and educational outcomes. As we know that our society is rigid, it is difficult to make changes in the mind-set of the people. Therefore, Government should introduce more welfare schemes for females to make them self-independent. Each educational institutes and school should take initiative to understand the gender related issues and to sensitize its' concerns staffs, teachers, students and society for the women equality. There should be some relevant contents on gender equality in textbooks, teacher should promote the respect to the girls and women in classroom environment and outside from the schools. Moreover, Government should also introduce new programmes and also make ensure the proper implementation of policies and strategies that ensuring the gender equality and also control all of the concerns related with malpractices towards gender in the society.

KEY WORDS: Gender, Sensitisation, Education, Men, Women.

INTRODUCTION

Gender refers to the socio-cultural differences between the males and females in terms of their strength, ability, performance, wage earning capacity and social acceptability etc. In fact the biological process does not discriminate between man and woman, but socially, women are regarded as weak, need protection and hence become subordinate to men (Barodia, 2015). After the World War II, in the post modernization era, one of the issues which had attracted the attention of the policymakers and social scientists was gender issues and concerns. Gender issues mean the discussion on both men and women, though women who suffer from gender inequality. Consideration of gender inequality is now common in government and non-government organizations and in the politics in India (Jha & Nagar, 2015). Further, Bharadwaj (2015) cleared that "the women have been discriminated in the country from time unknown. They have been treated in a very unfair manner. It is sad especially since there are in numerous many goddesses worshipped in this country. The country has been striving ever since the independence to protect the women from discrimination." Although, there are many issues and challenges for women, but gender inequality is the most prevalent challenge in the many societies and countries of the world.

The discrimination is an immoral, unethical & unfairly behavioural practice of an individual and groups of individual who considered himself/herself or themselves differently from the others individual or groups of individual. Discrimination humiliates human being from the core of the heart of the people. Through print, electronic & social media we often read, listen & watch unaccountable heart-breaking stories of individuals who have to suffer cruelty merely for belonging to a different part or a group of society from them those are having good position in society. Therefore, along with many distinguish areas of discrimination in many societies of the world, but one of the most challenge abled is crimination is based on gender. Therefore, there is a great need to sensitization the society on gender issues because it overall helps to determine and ensure the equal roles, responsibilities, opportunities, privileges and expectations of men and women within the society.

Issues and Challenges Related to Gender in India

There is no exaggeration to explain the India is a country where the most of the citizens have to face challenges of discriminate right from birth to the end of life due to their race, ethnicity, nationality, class, caste, religion, language, gender, age, health or other status and so on. There are many issues and challenges created by many societies for the female gender in the world. But, India is one rigid and traditional society where authorities settled distinction based on gender, and dominance was given to male gender. After that from the past, knowingly and

unknowingly, there are raised many issues and challenges for the females. There is no doubt that females are discriminated not only in the womb and childhood, but also at every phase of life. One side women have to play as a role of a breadwinner and care taker of her family and another side she has a service provider to her family and society also. She is responsible to accomplish multilateral role in the society as a mother, sister, wife and daughter. Moreover, the women also equally contribute to the country's development as their male counterpart. After that women have to play a prime role in the social life, but they have to face a number of challenges and limitations in their day to day life. All these challenges and limitations, restrain them to comprehend their potential for personal growth and freedom to live a better life. The challenges faced by women in Indian context are many like- male dominate society, literacy, domestic violence, putdowns, intimidation, stalking, early marriage, women -inequality indecision making, verbal abuse, emotional abuse, economic abuse, dowry violence & bride burring, eve-teasing, battering, dating abuse, female kidnapping, intimate partner violence, spousal abuse, marital rape, sexual harassment at home & work places, unwillingness to engage in the sexual activities, sexual assault, female & women trafficking, physical & mental harassment, family violence, female infanticide & foeticide, teasing, honour killing, female gender fierceness/inequality etc. All these malpractices construct many psychiatric disorders and mental illness among the females and that all leads to anti-social behaviour in the society. Thus, due to these malpractices, women self-esteem and dignity get down, they are suffering to stress, mental depression, schizophrenia, drug abuse, alcoholism etc. Therefore, due to all these conditions the women life becomes measurable. These are grim challenges and the matter of shame & disgrace for the Indian society. The people who are indulged in these kind of illegal activities, are mark a stigma on Indian society. Although, all these challenges faced by women are the results of degradation of values and ethics in the society. Therefore, overall these all issues and questions are related with the gender equality in the society. Although, legally women have equal rights but along with the same they are not treated equally in the social context of India. Thus, there is a great need to sensitization the society on gender issues so that there would be no discrimination on the bases of gender. Moreover, it overall helps to determine the equal roles, responsibilities, opportunities, privileges and expectations of men and women within the society.

Meaning of Gender Sensitisation

Sensitisation means to create awareness to change the prejudices & discriminative behaviour of all the human being towards a well & equal organised behaviour to all of the individuals and groups of the individuals beyond their background in society. So that everyone can enjoy their life fully without the pres-

sures and dominancy of others. Gender sensitization refers to theories which claim that positive modification in the behaviour of all stakeholders, students and teachers towards children so that there have no causal effect on gender equality. Barodia (2015) described that “gender sensitizing is about changing behaviour and instilling empathy into the views that we hold about our own and the other sex. It helps people in examining their personal attitudes and beliefs and questioning the 'realities' they thought they know.” In the other words, gender sensitization is a movement through which the people with stereotype & traditional thinking, should be able to assure equal participation of women and men in decision-making; to facilitate equally; to equally access & control on the resources; to acquire alike benefits of development; to get equal opportunities in employment; economic, political, cultural & social sector and also can get equivalent regard in all other aspects of their life and livelihood so that both gender can enjoy their human rights without any constraint.

Significance of Gender Sensitisation

The plethora of print and visual media reports on inequality and violence issues against women as well as some male also has to faces social destruction due to bogus cases by women both at home, work areas and at public. The increasing intolerance and insensitivity among the people of the present society construct harmful environment for their personal relationships, family members & surroundings. In this regards (Barodia, 2015) pointed out that “the barrier between men and women are crumbling down and society slowly gets over perennial problem of adjustment between them. With process of gender sensitization men tend to rationalize their behaviour by shedding their egos as far as gender relations are concerned. Instead of complaining or reacting to the behaviour of women men learn to exercise patience and restraint, and take the things in positive way. The will help the women in gaining the importance and recognition at society and domestic sphere when their decision will be taken into account.” The solution of this profound depression requires determined and well-planned strategies. Hence, gender sensitization has become the highly prioritized issue of the day. It is very important to mention here that gender sensitisation is not directly support and assure the sensitivity towards female but it also gives equal preference to both genders. Therefore, not only men should consciousness towards women but women should also have to take care and assure the equality of men in decision-making. It is also essential to women that they should take proper practice of the legal aspects and other privilege of law for equality and justification and not for satisfying their own ego and selfishness.

Gender Sensitisation: Significance of Education

Education is a gate way of all the values, sincerity, equality and character. It is a best weapon to fight all challenges related with human society. The gender inequality can be handled with the help of promoting gender sensitisation through education. The school, classroom and teachers are all part and parcel of a society. In a society people are suffering from various problems related with gender such as gender discrimination, oppression, inequalities, biasedness and various other issues. Therefore, by keeping in mind to all these issues, government of India time to time has worked on the education for women equality and has launched various scheme as; Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan; Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalya Scheme (KGBVS); District Primary Education Programme (DPEP); Mahila Samakhy (MS); Mid-day Meal Scheme (MDMS); The Total Literacy Campaign (TLC); Non formal Education System etc. Moreover, in India gender equality issues in education have been studied for several decades. But, gender equality in education based on systematic research is necessary precondition for formulation of inclusive educational policies that would not leave out a single girl or boy. It is therefore important to gain insight into the overall situation of teachers as well as their behaviour and attitudes towards their pupils (Narayanrao and Gingine, 2016). Thus, the above mention schemes helps the girl children to access education on priority bases. With the help of education, gender sensitization in educational institutes can create awareness among the children, parents and other members of the community about their roles in future as the men and women in the society. Although, presently, gender has been accepted as a main category in the formulation of policy and curricula framework in India. Moreover, women and gender studies also becomes the main subject and a stream to study at higher level of education.

Gender Sensitisation: Educational Institutes

This is the responsibility of educational institutes to ensure that all the students should be sensitized to gender and learned to respect each-other without gender bias. Children in a school come from such types of societies where there is a male dominate societies. Usually father is head of the family; male child is given more freedom rather than girl child. There may be possibilities of gender discrimination within the school promises between peer groups or by teachers. Thus, with the help of educational institutes can create awareness towards gender sensitization in schools and make the children to understandable their roles for present and future about as the men and women in the society. The main concern of educational institutes should be to increase the sensitivity of people at large towards women equality and their problems, so that students can develop right perception about women who have equal role, rights, status and significance in decision making at every field of life. Overall stereotypical image related with women should not be seen longer in the mind-set of men. Gender sensitization is first instance, tends to change the perception that men and women have equal to each other. Educational institutes should also promote leadership qualities among the girls so that they can get strengthen to fight with every challenge in their life.

A comprehensive school programmes should be introduced that address to the gender issues and can make a constructive impact on the minds of the students regarding gender sensitisation. The various co-curricular activities like discussion, seminar, plays, slogan writing, fancy dress competitions, elocution, debate, essay writing, story writing, poem writing, workshops and campaigns, clubs activates focus related issues on current women problems & gender sensitisation issues & introduced self-defence lessons etc. should be organised on the possible themes and related activities to promote gender sensitivity and also complement to co-existence of men and women. As well as educational institutes should organise some community based activities and programmes on gender equality within the institutes and also outside of the institutes that involve the parents, stakeholders, teachers and media. Thus, both kind of activities inside and outside of institutes can play a significance role for gender equality. Moreover, the Education institutes should involve the media in sensitizing gender based issues so the awareness can be created in among the masses. In the same line, Gingine and Narayanrao (2016), described that “gender sensitivity in early childhood education-equal encounter in nursery schools to plan and implement training for kindergarten professionals about equality education. The goal was the promote gender sensitivity in the pedagogical work in finish speaking kindergartens through research, education and engagement in the debates of educational policy.”

To sensitize the people towards gender, all of the educational institutes' administrations, teaching and other staff and also students should treat with dignity and equality to men and women both. The institutes should also arrange discussions on the all concerns related with female rights and their roles in the society during the parents' teacher meetings. Thus, if all educational institutes take care of these activities then gender sensitisation will not be an issue to think and work for a long time. Moreover, this is the power of education that can make a great social change in the society at large. Presently, gender and women studies has become a main subject of study at higher level of education. It is also included in the syllabus of teacher education, so that pupil teacher can learn how to deal with issues related with gender sensitisation in a smooth manner. Thus, all the possible concerns should be made by the educational institutions to promote the gender equality in education access, learning process and educational outcomes.

Gender Sensitisation: Role of Teacher

Teacher is an agent of social change and a main component of educational process. First teachers should change themselves and also take proper responsibility to make all of the possible change in the society regarding gender equality. In this regard, Barodia (2015) described that “teachers are strategically positioned to act as agents of change in order to achieve gender equality, especially through what they teach, how they teach and how they role model their own attitudes, beliefs and practices in the classroom and beyond. Indeed, teachers do not come into classrooms as gender-neutral persons. They are likely to have internalized a patriarchal gender ideology through their upbringing and years of socialization in both formal and informal settings. Teachers' patriarchal world views impact on the hidden curriculum that is often as influential in classrooms as the official curriculum. Frequently it is the hidden curriculum which ensures that gender differentiated practices, procedures and processes occur in classroom spaces and school structures where gender friendly, policies and curricula already exist.” Moreover, teacher should have the proper knowledge and understanding about how to implement the reading material; stories for children worksheets and group activity in the classroom so that these can promote gender equity and equality. It should be the duty of the teachers that they should sensitise their class students positively towards gender alongside to all the prejudices, discrimination related with females. Thus, teacher should also generate interest in understanding the individuals needs of students & also treat well to each student on respective of his/her background. Teacher should always be given strengthen to gender equality in his behaviour & discusses critically regarding gender sensitisation, other issues like violence in society and sexual harassment during the classroom practices. He/she should create awareness in the mass that boys and girls are equal. Each and every teacher should be professionally trained for to sensitize both gender towards each-other. Teachers should aware girls towards their equal rights in the society. Although the main emphasise should be given to make boys understandable for given the respect to all girls and women and they should also gain knowledge how they should treat with the female in school and society respectively.

Final Words

Thus, from the above discussion it can be conclude that in this process of gender equality and gender sensitisation, education, teachers and educational institutions play a significance role. According to Barodia (2015) that “gender sensitization through education can be as a forceful, effective and primary tool to bring change in the thought process of students through formal school education. The main focus should be on breaking the stereotypes and set patriarchal notions prevalent in the society. The time has come for women to rise up and force the patriarchal society to underline the importance and necessity of the role played by women in cultivating a strong, rational and progressive society.” Although, presently, gender and women has been accepted as a category in the formulation of policy and curricula framework in India. Presently, gender and women studies has become a main subject and stream of study at university level of education. As well as, it is also included in the syllabus of teacher education, so that pupil teacher can learn how to deal with issues related with gender sensitisation in a smooth manner. But there is along way to walk, the awareness, knowledge and

understanding relating to gender equality should be imparted, constructed and spread by schools through textbooks, pedagogy skills, assessment and the academic and outreach social involvement programmes. Moreover, Government has been launched many schemes empower them; to create awareness and educate the female for equal rights and to be self-sufficient. Without any doubt, in the now a days the conditions of women are improved, but there is a need to work hard. As we know that our society is rigid, it is difficult to make changes in the mind-set of the people. Therefore, Government should introduce more welfare schemes for females to make them self-independent. Each educational institutes and school should take initiative to understand the gender related issues and to sensitizeths' concerns staffs, teachers, students and society for the women equality. There should be some relevant contents on gender equality in textbooks, teacher should promote the respect to the girls and women in classroom environment and outside from the schools. Moreover, Government should also introduce new programmes and also make ensure the proper implementation of policies and strategies that ensuring the gender equality and also control all of the concerns related with malpractices towards gender in the society.

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